

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:

a pressure-based fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection thereof;

a conversion unit configured to convert fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor into digital electrical signals; and

an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for electrically connecting with an external terminal; and

said flat information recording/processing device configured to offer fingerprint data from said thin fingerprint sensor and data from ~~said memory~~: a memory.

2. (previously presented) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:

a pressure-based fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection thereof;

a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data; and

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory unit; and

an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for electrically connecting with an external terminal.

3. (currently amended) A flat information recording/processing device comprising:

a pressure-based fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection thereof;

a memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data;

an exposed terminal on a part of a surface of said device, said exposed terminal configured for electrically connecting with an external terminal; and

a fingerprint ~~matching using~~ matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data with the registered fingerprint data stored in the memory and to output a signal indicative of when there is a match of the fingerprints in the comparison to said exposed terminal.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a portable information recording unit carried by a first person comprising a thin pressure-based fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint of the first person as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection

thereof, a first memory unit configured to store fingerprint data detected by the fingerprint sensor as registered fingerprint data, a second memory unit in which user-specific information is kept, and an exposed terminal;

an information processing unit used by a second person different from the first person and comprising an external terminal configured to interface with said exposed terminal of said portable information recording unit, a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare newly detected fingerprint data, received at said external terminal, with the registered fingerprint data stored in the first memory unit, received at said external terminal, and a display unit configured to display the user-specific information stored in said second memory unit, said information processing unit configured to display the user-specific information stored in said second memory unit, said information processing unit configured to display the user-specific information in the display unit when there is a match of fingerprints, said information processing unit further comprising a second thin fingerprint sensor configured to sense a fingerprint of the second person and a third memory unit configured to store fingerprint data of the second person detected by said second fingerprint sensor as registered ~~fingerprint data.~~ fingerprint data; and

said portable information recording unit is configured to combine with said information processing unit to enable said system to operate wherein a fingerprint matching operation is started.

7. (previously presented) A system in accordance with claim 6 in which the information processing unit is configured to read out, to write in, and to rewrite information stored in the second memory unit of the information recording unit.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A machine/system control device ~~comprising~~ comprising:
a fingerprint sensor;

a fingerprint matching unit configured to compare fingerprint data newly detected by the fingerprint sensor with pre-registered fingerprint data stored in a memory or fingerprint data

~~previously detected by the fingerprint sensor; and associated with updateable user specific information corresponding to fingerprints, and~~

a control mechanism configured to control ~~operation of the~~ operation of a machine/system control device utilizing user-specific information stored in a second memory, corresponding to a fingerprint, when there is a match of the newly detected fingerprint data with the pre-registered fingerprint data, fingerprint data or the previously detected fingerprint data,

wherein said user-specific information comprises personal characteristics of users, ~~of users, and said control mechanism is configured to utilize said personal characteristics of users rather than individually set conditions of use to control operation of the machine/system control device.~~

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A flat information recording/processing device in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a second memory unit in which specific information about each user is stored.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A machine/system control device in accordance with ~~Claim 13~~ Claim 6 in which the ~~user specific information is stored~~ fingerprint data from a of the second person is fingerprint data of a person who has authority to inspect or rewrite information in the portable information recording unit. ~~information recording/processing device.~~

19. (previously presented) A machine/system control device in accordance with claim 9 in which the fingerprint sensor is a surface pressure input type fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection thereof

20. (currently amended) A method for accessing a database of an information recording/processing device with a portable read/write device, said method comprising the steps of:

registering fingerprint data of a first person in a memory of the portable ~~read/write device~~
read/write device;

pressing a finger of the first person on a fingerprint sensor module of the portable read/write/device to offer a fingerprint;

conditioning access to the database on a match of the offered fingerprint to fingerprint data in the memory of the portable read/write device, as determined by a fingerprint matching unit in the portable read/write device;

connecting the information recording/processing device to the portable read/write/device;

reading identification data from a memory of the information recording/processing device carried by a second person using the portable read/write/device, the data read including fingerprint data;

pressing a finger of the second person on a fingerprint sensor module of the information recording/processing device to obtain a fingerprint; and

comparing, using the portable fingerprint matching unit in the portable read/write device, the obtained fingerprint of the second person to the fingerprint data read from the information recording/processing device.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 20 and further comprising the step of displaying a verification when the obtained fingerprint of the person matches the fingerprint data read from the information recording/processing device.

23. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 22 and further comprising displaying specific information about the person verified.

24. (previously presented) A method in accordance with claim 20 and further comprising the step of updating information stored in the memory of the information recording/processing device.

25. (currently amended) A method for controlling access to a vehicle, said method comprising:

placing a finger on a fingerprint sensor module of a remote control module;

transmitting minutiae data of the fingerprint to a receiver mounted in the vehicle;

comparing the minutiae data to data stored in a database of registered drivers arranged in the vehicle;

conditioning opening of a door of the vehicle upon a match of the minutiae data to data stored in the database of registered drivers; and

limiting a speed of the vehicle in accordance with data of driver-specific information, which can be updated and stored in the database for a matched registered driver, wherein said limiting is in accordance with personal characteristics of users rather than individually set conditions of use.

26. (canceled)

27. (previously presented) A method for identifying an individual comprising the steps of:

recording fingerprint data of the individual as registered fingerprint data in a memory unit of a flat information recording/processing device;

sensing a fingerprint of the individual on a fingerprint sensor of the flat information recording/processing device, wherein the fingerprint sensor is a pressure-based fingerprint sensor configured to sense a pattern of ridges and valleys of a fingerprint as surface pressure distribution by scanning a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in an x-direction and a plurality of scanning electrode lines arranged in a y-direction with an active element connected to said x and y scanning electrode lines at each intersection thereof;

comparing the sensed fingerprint of the individual to the registered fingerprint data using a fingerprint matching unit of the flat information recording/processing device; and

outputting a result of the comparison to an exposed terminal of the recording/processing device, the exposed terminal configured to electrically connect to an external terminal.

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)